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*Robert*  
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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

SHOZO HATTORI, et al.

Application No.: 09/543,331

Filed: April 5, 2000

For: INK ABSORBENT, INK TANK,  
INK JET CARTRIDGE,  
METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING  
INK ABSORBENT, AND  
METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING  
INK TANK

Examiner: M. Nghiem

Group Art Unit: 2861

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

January 9, 2001

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants  
respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents  
listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of  
each document so listed is enclosed.

European 466,142  
European 663,295  
European 709,209  
European 756,935

These documents were cited during prosecution of a  
European patent application corresponding to the above U.S.  
application. A copy of the European Search Report is  
enclosed. Inasmuch as this application has not yet received

a first Office Action on the merits, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3).

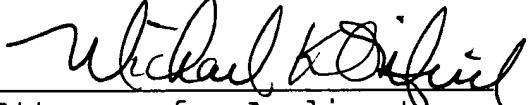
European 709,211, which was also cited in the Search Report was previously cited in the Information Disclosure Statement dated September 7, 2000.

The Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialling the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All

correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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